



**ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**July 30 – August 3, 2011**  
**WASHINGTON COURT HOTEL**  
**525 NEW JERSEY AVENUE, N.W.**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**Monday, August 1, 2011**

**Introduction of Members – Everyone present introduced themselves.**

**Welcome by District of Columbia Boxing and Wrestling Commission**

- **Honorable Vincent C. Gray, Mayor of the District of Columbia**
- **Honorable Kwame R. Brown, Chairman, DC City Council**
- **Greg O'Dell, CEO, Washington Convention and Sports Authority**
- **Scottie Irving, Chairman, District of Columbia Boxing and Wrestling Commission**

**President's Welcome – Tim Lueckenhoff (MO)**

Introduction of representatives of Member Commissions and Guests  
Voter Authority Forms

**Verification of Registered Commissions:**

See attached Voter Authority Forms (38)

Dennis O'Connell – Arizona Boxing and MMA Commission  
Lydia Robertson – Arkansas Athletic Commission  
George Dodd – California Athletic Commission  
Haskell Alexander – Chickasaw Nation Gaming Commission  
Leigh Brown – Citizen Potawatomi Nation Athletic Commission  
Josef Mason – Colorado State Boxing Commission  
Jill Peters – Comanche Nation Sports Commission  
Mark Langlais – CT Dept of Public Safety / Boxing Regulation  
Dr. Mel Jurado – Florida Athletic Commission  
Andy Foster – Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission  
Alan Taniguchi – Hawaii Boxing Commission  
Angela Robertson – KY Boxing & Wrestling Authority  
Buddy Embanato – Louisiana Athletic Commission  
Patrick Pannella – Maryland Athletic Commission  
Matthew Cooper – Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation Gaming Commission  
Jim Erickson – Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe  
RD Brown – Minnesota Combative Sports Commission  
Tim Lueckenhoff – Missouri Office of Athletics  
Michael Mazzulli – Mohegan Tribe Department of Athletic Regulation  
Brian Dunn – Nebraska Athletic Commission  
Aaron M. Davis – New Jersey State Athletic Control Board  
Terrance L. Merriweather – North Carolina Boxing Authority  
Robert Carlson – North Dakota Athletic Commission  
Bernie Profato – Ohio Athletic Commission  
Joe Miller – Oklahoma State Athletic Commission  
Dan Gustafson – Oneida Nation Athletic Commission  
Ernie Gallardo – Pascua Yaqui Tribe Boxing Commission

Greg Sirb – Pennsylvania Athletic Commission  
Bill Colbert – Pete Suazo Utah Athletic Commission  
Joanna Aguilar – Pueblo of Santa Ana Athletic Commission  
William DeLuca – Rhode Island Division of Commercial Licensing and Racing & Athletics  
Kim Wilson – Seneca Nation of Indians Athletic Commission  
Jay Pitts – South Carolina Athletic Commission  
Phillip Martinez – Southern Ute Indian Boxing Commission  
Elliot Lazore – St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Department of Athletic Regulation  
Jeff Mullen – Tennessee Athletic Commission  
Arturo Martinez – Texas Department of Licensing  
Alfred Grant – Washington D.C. Boxing Commission

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes from 2010 Annual Meeting**

Motion to accept minutes from 2010 ABC Conference made by Dick Cole (TX) and seconded by Bill Colbert (UT). Motion passed unanimously.

### **Treasurer Report – Buddy Embanato (LA)**

Treasurer's report submitted by Treasurer Buddy Embanato for 2011 Fiscal Year (See attached report). Greg Sirb (PA) recommends spending money on training for referees, judges and inspectors with an emphasis on MMA. He would like to develop a definitive program and establish a set date, time, and location. George Dodd (CA) addressed the fact that there have not been any training seminars or ABC meetings on the west coast. Bill Colbert (UT) expressed concern about spending annuities on training. Tim Lueckenhoff (MO) was opposed to spending annuities at this time. He was concerned that the ABC wouldn't meet their goals on rooms at the next conference and be on the hook for balances owed. He feels that this is what the annuities should be used for in this economy. Further discussion was made with Buddy Embanato (LA) mentioning that the ABC could possibly set aside \$1,500 every year to help supplement different types of training. Motion to accept Treasurer's report made by Dick Cole (TX) and seconded by Andy Foster (GA). Motion passed unanimously.

### **President's Report – Tim Lueckenhoff (MO)**

Tim Lueckenhoff gave a brief description of the exorbitant expense that is involved in putting on the ABC Conference every year.

### **Chickasaw Nation – Haskell Alexander**

Haskell Alexander gave a description of the Chickasaw Nation Tribe of Oklahoma. He explained that they have very strong leadership and are very excited and honored to be at the ABC Convention. Haskell spoke about the Boxing and MMA events that the Chickasaw Nation Tribe have had over this past year and the ones that are upcoming. Joe Miller (OK) attested to the fact that the Chickasaw Nation Tribe had spent 1 ½ years learning how to put on these events and that they are doing everything "top notch". He recommends that they are accepted into the ABC. Mike Mazzulli (Mohegan) made a motion that the Chickasaw Nation be accepted into the ABC. The motion was seconded by Greg Sirb (PA). The motion passed unanimously.

### **Comanche Report – Jim Erickson (Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe)**

Jim Erickson reported on the Comanche Nation Sports Commission explaining that their third event had been completed and was successful. He noted that they are willing to put as many resources into their events as necessary to make them a success.

### **Bare Knuckle Fighting**

**Greg Sirb, (PA)** remarked that the Fort McDowell Tribe of Arizona held a bare knuckle boxing event at their casino. He urged all 14 tribal members of the ABC to send the Fort McDowell Tribe a letter noting that such activity contravenes the laws and regulations attendant to professional boxing and imploring the Fort McDowell Tribe to not allow such activity to occur on their tribal land. (Note: The ABC issued a press release to such effect shortly after the bare knuckle event took place.)

### **Chitimacha Tribal Gaming Commission – Buddy Embanato (LA)**

Buddy Embanato invited Denise Faust of the Chitimacha Tribal Gaming Commission to petition the ABC to become an Associate Member. Ms. Faust explained that the Chitimacha Tribal Gaming Commission developed the Chitimacha Athletic Authority in May, 2011; and that they would be relying on the Louisiana Boxing and Wrestling Commission to help guide them in their upcoming events. Buddy explained that the tribe is doing things the right way. Buddy further stated, the Louisiana Commission would continue to regulate events on the Chitimacha land as long as they are invited to do so. He will provide an additional report at the 2012 meeting. He made a motion to accept them as an Associate Member. The Motion was seconded by Mike Mazzulli (Mohegan). The Motion passed unanimously.

### **Discussion of Tribes Compacting with State Commissions – Chief John Froman, Peoria Tribe of Oklahoma**

Chief John Froman explained that the Peoria Tribe has a small venue and anticipates holding a limited number of event. Accordingly, the Peoria Tribe decided it was in their best interest to form a compact with the State of Oklahoma rather than forming their own tribal boxing commission. He gave a brief description of the details of the compact between the Peoria Tribe and the State of Oklahoma; noting that the compact renews every year, and that the Peoria Tribe is pleased with how their events are regulated.

### **Compliance Committee Report – Tim Lueckenhoff**

President Lueckenhoff reported on Commissions that are still letting fighters fight that are on the suspension list. There is no excuse for this as Fight Fax records and the internet-based suspensions are readily available. He is urging all Commissions to be diligent, making absolutely sure they are not letting a fighter fight while on suspension. Commissions need to make this a priority. There was much discussion on who can and cannot issue Federal ID cards. It was noted that, although the Federal Law provides for each boxer to register with the boxing commission of the State in which such boxer resides" (15 USC §6305), there is no basis to distinguish between a state boxing commission and a tribal boxing commission. Joe Miller (OK) made a motion to authorize Tribal Commissions who are members of the ABC to issue federal ID cards to fighters who reside within the same state where the tribal commission is located. Buddy Embanato (LA) seconded. Bill Colbert (PSUAC), Jim Erickson (MLBO) and RD Brown (MN) were opposed. Motion passed.

### **Fight Fax Record Keeper Report**

Several members present at the convention expressed the fact that there is some confusion in interpreting the comments on the Fight Fax boxing records and the Fight Fax database. A committee was formed that will make suggestions to Fight Fax in order to make it more user friendly. The committee will be headed by Mike Mazzulli (Mohegan) and will include Josef Mason (CO), Phillip Martinez (SUF), Mark Langlais (CT), Aaron Davis (NJ), and Jason Stewart (AR).

### **ABC MMA Database Committee Report – Bernie Profato (OH), Joe Miller (OK), Aaron Davis (NJ), Brian Dunn (NB), Dale Kliparchuk (Central Combative Sports Commission) and Tim Lueckenhoff (MO)**

Bernie Profato (OH) stated that the mission of the committee was to set up a database for mixed martial arts to protect fighters and control mismatches. He also expressed that it is the ABC's duty to get all fighters in the database, so they can easily be identified – emphasizing the need for consistency. It not only helps protect the fighter and makes good matches but also helps make sure that the correct results are attributed to the correct fighter. There have been some improvements to the database, including: (1) the way suspensions are listed, and (2) if a promoter lists his/her fight on the database, a Commission can easily see if that fighter is suspended or if it is a good match and, in addition, make comments right then and there. He asked Commissions to urge promoters and sanctioning bodies to list their fights on the database. He also stated that you can now edit and/or remove remarks that you have made on the database. You can change and do everything yourself without having to submit it to anyone else to do it for you. Sanctioning bodies will now have access to the database but on a "read only" basis with the state or tribe that sanctions the event making arrangements for the sanctioning organization to have such access.

### **MMA, LLC Record Keeper Report – Chris Palmquist & Kirik Jenness**

Please see attached handout. Chris Palmquist gave a presentation about the rise in the number of events that are being sanctioned. There were 908 events in 2008; and there are almost as many events just in the first half of this year. He spoke about the importance of amateur fights being regulated just like professional ones. Not all Commissions are issuing national ID cards; however, the number is growing. Kirik Jenness stated that the database is working well, but noted that it still isn't good enough. He would like every Commission to consider using the standard result sheet that can be downloaded off of the database. He stated that 90% of the errors went away when results were submitted using the MMA, LLC result sheet, and that it also helped with judging. Kirik spoke about a parallel system that he developed for amateur MMA sanctioning bodies so they can see who is suspended; and he would like every commission to use it. Kirik is currently working on: (1) a phone portal of the database, so anyone can access it at any time on their mobile phone; (2) a system that would rate all fighters which would aide in making good matches; and (3) a database that would list fighters who participate in both boxing and MMA.

### **Unified Rules – Greg Sirb (PA)**

Please see attached handout. Greg Sirb stated that certain referees would like to change the Unified Rules; so that, if an accidental or intention foul occurs which results in the fouled boxer not being able to complete the round in which the foul occurs, that partial round would be scored. Greg also stated that the referees also suggested a change to the rule, providing that a fighter be given up to 5 minutes to recover from an accidental low blow, so that the same five minutes to recover also be made applicable to any accidental or intentional foul. There was much discussion about whether or not the 5 minutes should be up to the discretion of the Referee, Ringside Physician or Commission. No action was taken as to either suggested change.

### **Unsanctioned Fights & Physician Legislation – Joe Miller (OK)**

Joe Miller explained the danger in fighters fighting in unsanctioned events. He stated that there is no way to be sure there is a legitimate physician working these events. For the safety and well being of fighters in Oklahoma, if a fighter has participated in one of these fights, they are denied a license for 60 days, or if they already are licensed, they will be unable to fight in a sanctioned event for 60 days. He also reported on legislation that was passed in Oklahoma which provides that a ringside physician at an OSAC sanctioned event, who renders or attempts to render emergency care to an injured participant in need of immediate medical aid, shall not be liable for damages as a result of any acts or omissions except for committing gross negligence or willful, wanton negligence in rendering the emergency care.

### **Policies on Administrative Suspensions – Bernie Profato (OH)**

Bernie urged all Commissions to honor each others administrative suspensions.

### **Election of New Officers –**

Bruce Spizler (MD) and Elaine Smith (Mille Lacs), both members of the ABC Legal Committee, presided over the election of officers.

### **Nominations:**

#### **President**

Joe Miller (OK) nominated **Tim Lueckenhoff** (MO). Pat Pannella (MD) seconded.  
William DeLuca (RI) nominated **Mike Mazzulli** (Mohegan). Matthew Cooper (Mashantucket) seconded.

#### **Vice President**

Dick Cole (TX) [subsequently, Arturo Martinez (TX), considering that Dick Cole is not the voting member from Texas] nominated **Joanna Aguilar** (Pueblo of Santa Ana). Phillip Martinez (S. Ute) seconded.  
Alfred Grant (DC) nominated **Andy Foster** (GA). Mike Mazzulli (Mohegan) seconded.  
Bernie Profato (OH) nominated **Aaron Davis** (NJ). Greg Sirb (PA) seconded.  
Josef Mason (CO) nominated **Jim Erickson** (MLBO). Greg Sirb (PA) seconded.

#### **Secretary**

Bernie Profato (OH) nominated **Joe Miller** (OK). Joanna Aguilar (Pueblo of Santa Ana) seconded.  
Joe Miller was elected by acclamation.

#### **Treasurer**

Joe Miller (OK) nominated **Buddy Embanato** (LA). Dick Cole (TX) seconded.  
Buddy Embanato was elected by acclamation.

### **Speeches:**

Each nominee gave a speech on why they should be elected to their nominated office.

### **Election Results:**

**President – Tim Lueckenhoff (MO)**  
**Vice President 1 – Aaron Davis (NJ)**  
**Vice President 2 – Jim Erickson (MLBO)**  
**Secretary – Joe Miller (OK)**  
**Treasurer – Buddy Embanato (LA)**

### **Tuesday, August 2, 2011**

#### **ABC Legal Committee Report – Bruce Spizler (MD)**

Bruce Spizler, co-chair of the ABC Legal Committee, reported that efforts to enact federal legislation providing for, among other things, a United States Boxing Commission, to date, have been unsuccessful; and the passage of such legislation during the current session of Congress is “unlikely.” Noting that professional boxing and MMA are the only major, professional sports in the United States without a national oversight or centralized league, Bruce reiterated that the only entity there is to achieve much-needed *uniformity* and *effective enforcement* in these sports is the ABC; nevertheless, the ABC is without a funding source or other financial support, and is without statutory authority other than the limited references currently in the federal law. Accordingly, there is the abiding need for every member commission of the ABC to stick together, cooperate with each other, and support each other, as “we are only as strong as our weakest link”. Such unity is crucial to ensure integrity and fairness in combat sports and, most importantly, to insure the health and welfare of the fighters.

As an example, Bruce discussed some of the legalities attendant to the case of *In the Matter of Antonio Margarito*, Case No. 2009-0219-1 (California State Athletic Commission). There, after conducting a lengthy hearing, the California State Athletic Commission, unanimously, *revoked* the boxer's license that had been issued to Margarito after determining that the "knuckle pads" of Margarito's hand-wraps had been adulterated with a "white plaster-like substance" (discovered in Margarito's dressing room at the Staples Center in Los Angeles shortly before his championship fight against Shane Mosley on January 29, 2009). Although Margarito participated in a boxing contest in Aquascalientes, Mexico for the vacant WBC International (not World) light middleweight championship in May, 2010 while the revocation was in effect, no commission in the U.S. would issue a boxer's license to Margarito (although Margarito had made such attempts) until he returned to California for re-licensure there. Margarito submitted an application to the California State Athletic Commission for a boxer's license; however, after conducting a hearing on August 18, 2010, the CSAC *denied* Margarito's application to be licensed as a boxer, concluding that the purpose of the adulterated hand-wraps was to injure an opponent and to win a fight. Soon thereafter, Margarito applied for a boxer's license in another jurisdiction. In the absence of a hearing or any consideration of the "adulterated hand-wraps" incident in California, Margarito summarily was granted a boxer's license; and, on November 13, 2010, Margarito fought Manny Pacquiao for the WBC light middleweight championship at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas. Bruce noted that the federal law mandates the reciprocal enforcement of license *suspensions and revocations* regarding certain matters such as medical, drugs, and, unsportsmanlike conduct or "other inappropriate behavior inconsistent with generally accepted methods of competition in a professional boxing match" (like the Margarito revocation); however, it does not mandate the reciprocal enforcement of license *denials*. Bruce noted that, while it is within each Commission's prerogative to grant a license to a boxer, even though that boxer has been denied a license by another commission, in instances such as the one involving Margarito, a Commission should not *summarily* issue a license but, instead: (1) conduct a hearing; (2) consider the testimony and evidence which was presented to the commission that denied the boxer a license; (3) conduct deliberations; and (4) only then, decide to grant or deny the boxer a license. In effect, we, the ABC, cannot effectively regulate boxing unless we all are on the same page.

### **Tribal Commissions**

The Southern Ute Indian Boxing Commission, overruled by their own tribal leadership, was ordered to allow a "contest" involving 4 fighters all fighting at the same time in a cage. Since there was nothing else the ABC could do, the ABC Legal Committee recommended that the matter be referred to the US Attorney's Office.

The Wichita & Affiliated Tribes (Keechi, Tawakonie and Waco), located in Oklahoma, created its own tribal boxing commission, and per a resolution, delegated its regulatory authority to Gerald Wolford, the President of the Native American Boxing Council, a sanctioning organization which ranks professional boxers and awards championship belts. Subsequently, the NABC "commissioned" a professional boxing event at the Shiprock High School in Shiprock New Mexico on the Navajo Nation Reservation; and the NABC served as the regulator of those boxing contests which included a bout between a professional boxer, who was also the promoter of the fight, (7-0-0) verses a "pro debut" boxer for the "USA NABC female featherweight", the "WPBA International featherweight", the "WIBU International featherweight", and the "WIBC Inter-Continental featherweight" titles. The "pro debut" boxer was knocked out in the first round. The ABC was unable to get any response from either the Navajo Nation or the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes. Accordingly, the ABC Legal Committee recommended that the matter be referred to the US Attorney's office in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

### **World Series of Boxing**

The World Series of Boxing ("WSB") is an Intercontinental boxing league consisting of 12 franchised boxing teams split into 3 continental divisions of Europe, Asia and the Americas with 4 franchises participating in each of the 3 divisions. The International Boxing Association (AIBA) owns 75% of the organization with IMG (an American marketing and management firm) owning the other 25%. The franchised teams in the Americas division are the L.A. Matadors, the Memphis Force; the Mexico City Guerreros; and the Miami Gallos. Each team controls its own advertising, ticketing, sponsorships, and marketing with the WSB controlling TV and other media rights in each market. Each boxer is paid a league minimum of \$25,000 per year plus living expenses and health insurance. The boxers do not wear head gear; scoring is on a "10 point must" system (in the absence of electronic punch-based amateur scoring); and the bouts are subject to the rules of professional boxing. Nevertheless, the WSB maintains that these boxing contests in the U.S. are to be regulated by USA Boxing (the continental organization of AIBA in the U.S.) and not by state or tribal boxing commissions. Through the efforts of Greg Sirb and Bruce Spizler, a Memorandum of Understanding was attempted to be effectuated between WSB, USA Boxing and the ABC; whereby these boxing contests would be regulated by state or tribal boxing commissions and otherwise subject to the laws and regulations attendant to professional boxing with the results being reported as a "WSB bout" to distinguish it from other professional bouts, and a determination of Olympic eligibility being left to USA Boxing. To date, WSB has declined to sign the MOU.

Dr. Mel Jurado (FL) made a motion that the ABC not attempt to negotiate an MOU; that the WSB boxers be deemed to be professional "period"; and that a letter from the ABC be sent to the WSB and USA Boxing to this effect. Motion was seconded by Bill DeLuca (RI). Motion passed (Dennis O'Connell (AZ) abstained). George Dodd (CA) made a motion that all state and tribal boxing commissions recognize each WSB boxer as a professional boxer; and that all commissions not

allow a WSB boxer to subsequently participate in amateur boxing (other than Olympic eligibility). Dr. Mel Jurado (FL) seconded. Motion passed.

A committee was formed to draft a letter to the WSB setting forth the ABC's position on the status of boxers who participate in the WSB. The committee consists of the following members: Joe Miller (OK), Dr. Mel Jurado (FL), Andy Foster (GA), George Dodd (CA), RD Brown (MN), Pat Pannella (MD) and Bill Colbert (UT).

### **USA Boxing**

There was much discussion about USA Boxing in regard to how they are operating. Andy Foster (GA) and Dr. Mel Jurado (FL) expressed concern about how USA Boxing has been operating in their respective states. A committee was formed to study this matter. The committee will consist of the following members: Dr. Mel Jurado (FL), Joe Miller (OK), Andy Foster (GA), George Dodd (CA), RD Brown (MN), Pat Pannella (MD) and Bill Colbert (UT).

### **Gloves – Greg Sirb (PA)**

Greg Sirb (PA) gave an overview on new and different MMA glove types. Noting the wide variety and types of gloves, he advised Commissions to have fighters set forth in their bout contracts the type of gloves that they would like to use. Jim Erickson shared some information about the WBC Glove Certification Program.

### **Request A Test – Pedro Perez and Carolyn Solis**

Please see attached handout. Pedro gave a description of the services that Request A Test can provide for Commissions. Pat Pannella (MD) and Dr. Bob Smick emphasized the need for all fighters to have negative results for Hepatitis C antibody, a Hepatitis B antigen and an HIV antibody; and not just something saying that the boxer has received a vaccination for them.

### **World Judges Report – Greg Sirb (PA)**

Please see attached report.

### **Digital Scoring System – Mike Mazzulli (Mohegan)**

Mike Mazzulli (Mohegan) gave a demonstration of a new digital scoring system that he is developing.

### **Non-Compliant Sanctioning Organizations – Jim Erickson (MLBO)**

Jim Erickson explained that, in December 2010, he sent a letter to every Commission asking them to provide the names of any sanctioning organizations that have sanctioned a title fight in the last 18 months and have taken a fee for it. He explained that those organizations have been turned over to the US Attorney's office.

### **Boxers Organization Committee – Paul Johnson**

Please see attached handout. Paul Johnson spoke about the benefits of establishing a union for boxers.

### **New Hemorrhaging Solution – Dr. McCoy L. Moretz, MD**

Please see attached handout. Dr. Moretz spoke about a new hemorrhaging solution that he has invented called "The Original Cutman Gel". The gel's purpose is to stop bleeding quickly. It is non-performance enhancing, completely herbal and will be available over the counter. Andy Foster (GA) spoke on behalf of Dr. Moretz. Richard Halliburton, a member of the Georgia Boxing Hall of Fame, endorsed the product. Dr. Moretz plans to go stat- to-state toward the end of having the product approved.

### **Kickboxing Database – John Tafoya**

John Tafoya, GM & Founder of Competition Technology, spoke about a new Kickboxing database that he is in the process of developing. His database, Fight Sports Insider, will be an independent database of Kickboxing and Muay Thai results and fighter statistics. The goal is to ensure legitimate and accurate data. Mr. Tafoya would like to get the ABC's endorsement. A database committee was formed, consisting of the following members: Nick Lembo (NJ), Bernie Profato (OH), Jason Stewart (AR), Joanna Aguilar (PSA), Matthew Cooper (MPTN), Bill Colbert, (UT), and Aaron Davis (NJ).

### **Simple and Quick Neurological Exam for Referees to Assess Boxers In the Ring – Dr. Dominique Coletta**

Please see attached handout. Dr. Coletta gave a presentation on a post knock down evaluation that he would like to see referees use in boxing. It is a simple, and medically sound, process that would assist referees in making the rapid and crucial decision on whether or not to let a fighter continue after he or she has been knocked down during a round. The test consists of balance, ability to follow commands, alertness and gate testing. He recommends that failure to pass any of these tests constitutes a basis upon which the fight should be stopped.

### **Maryland's Chronic Traumatic Brain Injury Study – Dr. John Stiller**

Please see attached handout. A presentation was given on Chronic Traumatic Brain Injury in Boxing by Dr. John Stiller.

### **Contestants who fail Drug/Steroid Test, Policy for ABC Changing Decision – Joe Miller (OK)**

Joe Miller (OK) asked the ABC membership for different ideas on what to do with a contestant that tests positive for drugs. There was much discussion about this with many of the members suggesting that the ABC adopt the WADA list of banned substances. Johnny Mattingly (AR) made a motion that any fighter who tests positive for a drug that is on the WADA list, either pre-bout or post-bout, have their fight listed as a loss as long as their state allows it. Motion was seconded by RD Brown (MN). Motion failed and was passed to committee. A committee was formed consisting of the following members: Jeff Keel (Chickasaw), Bill DeLuca (RI), RD Brown (MN), Pat Pannella (MD), Dr. Corey Schoenewew (OK).

### **ABC Uniform Procedures for Requesting Contestants' Medicals, Progress Report – Pat Pannella (MD)**

Please see attached handout. Pat Pannella (MD) talked about the procedures in a medical information release system that was established last year, explaining that it has been extremely successful. It is very efficient and has cut down on a tremendous work load. He also spoke about a Group Secondary Accident Insurance Coverage that his state, Maryland, offers to contestants.

### **Study of Medical Malpractice Insurance Coverage for Ringside Physicians – John Gradowski**

John Gradowski (MD) spoke about Medical Malpractice Insurance Coverage that he has been working on. It is on a per physician / per event basis, and the event must be approved by an appropriate Commission. Pricing may be a problem, \$500/event, so he will be talking to other carriers to see if they can get the cost down.

### **What Constitutes a TKO or KO – George Dodd (CA)**

George Dodd gave a presentation on what the ABC deems to be a TKO, as opposed to a KO. It was noted that most Commissions are not on the same page in this regard. A committee was formed to update the regulatory guidelines on this issue. The committee consists of the following members: George Dodd (CA), Bernie Profato (OH), Richard Montenez (UT), Greg Sirb (PA), and Joe Mason (CO).

### **Conflicts of Interest – Aaron Davis (NJ)**

Please see attached handout. Aaron Davis (NJ) suggested that each commission meet with their State Ethics Commission to review their laws and policies.

### **Medical Insurance for Contestants Fighting Outside the US – Ken Hayashi (ON)**

Ken Hayashi advised the ABC that, in Canada, promoters are not required to get health insurance for their events since Canadian fighters already have health insurance; and that this poses a problem for non-Canadian fighters if they are badly injured. There was some discussion to the effect that the same situation exists in other countries as well. A suggestion was made that promoters be required to provide their own insurance even if the country does not require it.

### **TNA Wrestling Update – Craig Jenkins**

Mr. Jenkins informed the ABC of a lawsuit that has been instituted, because of one professional wrestler allegedly transmitted Hepatitis C to another professional wrestler Hepatitis C through contact. He urged all Commissions to ascertain the extent of their liability in such a situation.

### **Wednesday, August 3, 2011**

### **MMA Officials Training Committee Report – Nick Lembo (NJ)**

The MMA Officials Training Committee consists of the following members: Nick Lembo (NJ), Andy Foster (GA), Dale Kliparchuk (CCSC), Joe Miller (OK), Richard Montenez (UT), Bernie Profato (OH), Dr. Corey Schoenewe (OK), and Dr. Sherry Wulkan (NJ). Nick explained that the committee received the following applications for consideration: Kevin McDonald, Mario Yamasaki and Katrina Belcher. After a full review, the committee approved the applicants and advised the President that they are eligible for an overall vote for approval. Andy Foster (GA) made a motion to approve. Bill DeLuca (RI) seconded. Motion to have courses passed. (Note: It was later determined that, due to a compute glitch resulting in all of the committee members not receiving Katrina Belcher's training materials, her course was not approved.)

### **Muay Thai Unified Rules Committee Report, Nick Lembo (NJ)**

Please see attached report. The Muay Thai Unified Rules Committee consists of the following members: Nick Lembo (NJ), Joe Miller (OK), Mike Mazzulli (Mohegan), Bernie Profato (OH), Pat Reid (Edmonton), and Dr. Wulkan (NJ). The ABC Unified Rules and Guidelines for Muay Thai Report was a culmination of 2 years of the committee meetings with many of

the world's experts on Muay Thai. Nick gave a description of the rules. Bill Colbert (PSU) made a motion to accept the rules. Bernie Profato (OH) seconded. Motion Passed.

### **Unified Amateur MMA Rules Committee Report – Andy Foster (GA)**

Please see attached report. The Unified Amateur MMA Rules Committee consists of the following members: Jeff Mullen (TN), Andy Foster (GA), Dr. Estwanik, (NC) Dr. Wulkan, (NJ) Dale Kliparchuk, (CCSC) Brian Dunn (NE), and Dan Fitzgerald (MA). Dr. Estwanik gave a brief statement about amateur fighters, saying that he feels the amateur fighter needs protection. Andy Foster (GA) believes there should be a "tiered system"; *i.e.*, that amateurs start at a certain level and gradually step up in the process. Under this system, the fighter would need to know some form of martial arts and would only be allowed to fight in 2 minute rounds until after their third fight. Most Commissions agreed that amateur fighters need to be treated with more care; and that amateur MMA needs to be effectively regulated. Rob Carlson (ND) made a motion to accept the Unified Amateur Rules for MMA as ABC guidelines. Joe Mason (CO) seconded. Andy Foster (GA) called for a roll call vote. Motion passed with 26 for, 2 against, and 5 abstaining. Buddy Embanato (LA) and Arturo Martinez (TX) voted no. Mark Langlais (CT), Dr. Mel Jurado (FL), Matthew Cooper (MPT), Brian Dunn (NB), and Joanna Aguilar (PSA) abstained.

### **MMA Scoring Committee Report – Jeff Mullen (TN)**

Please see attached handout. The MMA Scoring Committee consists of the following members: Jeff Mullen (TN), Aaron Davis (NJ), Dale Kliparchuk (CCSC), Todd Neal (KY), Dr. Joseph Cooper (DC), Ed Garner (Namino), Josef Mason (CO) and Terry Smith (OK). Jeff believes that the ½ point system is better if used properly. It will only make a difference in fights that are really close. He believes the judges need more training before it is ready to be used; however, when they get that, it will be a superior system. Terry Smith (OK) believes we need a better MMA scoring system. Currently, it is more of a "boxing system" which doesn't work well for MMA. Andy Foster (GA), George Dodd (CA) Pat Reid, (Edmonton), and RD Brown (MN) volunteered to test the ½ point system in their states. The committee remained in tact with the addition of Andy Foster (GA).

### **Request A Test – Carolyn Solis**

Please see attached handout. Carolyn went over some of the services that Request A Test provides and encouraged Commissions to fill out the survey on the back of the handout. Pat Pannella spoke about how important it is to get blood testing done on fighters.

### **Body Weight Study – Pat Reid**

Please see attached handout. Pat went over the handout making note of the dangers attendant to fighters dropping too much weight.

### **States That Need Help in Making MMA Legal – Andy Foster (GA)**

Andy Foster expressed interest in having the ABC help provide strategies, or provide assistance, to Commissions that are having a hard time getting MMA legalized in their state.

### **Committee to Study Canadian Commissions As Full, Voting Members of the ABC – Bill Colbert (PSU)**

A committee was formed to study the issues involving Canadian Commissions becoming full, voting members of the ABC. The committee consists of the following members: Bill Colbert (PSU), George Dodd (CA), Andy Foster (GA), Mike Pattenaude (Vancouver), Aaron Davis (NJ), Dale Kliparchuk (CCSC), Pat Reid (Edmonton), Ken Hayashi, (Ontario) and Joel Fingard (Manitoba).

### **MEDLIC Medical Database – Jan Hubbard**

Jan Hubbard gave an overview of the services that her database provides. She mentioned that they are having an issue with Commissions responding to their requests for medical forms used by that Commission and requirements for medicals. She also noted that most fighters have not heard of their database and asked for Commissions help in referring fighters to them.

### **ABC Medical Committee Report – Dr. Sheryl Wulkan (NJ)**

Please see attached handout. Dr. Sheryl Wulkan addressed multiple issues, including fighters participating in combat sports with a missing limb. She believes that these fighters should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, with attention being paid to: (1) what combat sport they will be participating in; (2) whether they can be effective offensively and defensively; and (3) the risk to their opponent. She also believes that forming a disabilities league should be looked in to.

Dr. Wulkan also spoke about the medical requirements for contestants over the age of 36. She strongly suggests that rigorous pre-fight exams, as outlined in the ABC Medical Handbook and or The Commissioners Suggested Guidelines, be administered to the fighter before they are allowed to fight.



Dr. Wulkan discussed the use of Therapeutic Use Exemption Forms. These forms will allow an athlete to continue to use certain prescribed medications under certain prescribed circumstances (*e.g.*, testosterone) that otherwise are banned under the WADA Prohibited Drug List.

**Cage Specifications – Brent Stuchlik**

Please see attached handout. Michael Mersch, from UFC and Strikeforce, advised that their parent company, Zuffa, has the trademark on the use of an 8-sided cage in Mixed Martial Arts promotions or entertainment.

Brent Stuchlik, of Evolution Athletics who manufactures cages and other mixed martial arts equipment, gave an overview of cage designs. He advised Commissions to make sure cages are fire retardant, and that have canvas or synthetic canvas instead of vinyl; considering that vinyl not only gets slick, but it can burn fighters if it gets too hot. He also spoke about a "check off" sheet that he developed for Commissions to use to make sure a cage is safe.

**Andy Foster (GA) made a motion to adjourn. Aaron Davis (NJ) seconded. Motion Passed.**