



ANNUAL CONFERENCE
July 23 – July 25, 2012
HILTON CLEARWATER BEACH
400 MANDALAY AVENUE
CLEARWATER, FL

Monday, July 23, 2012

Introduction of Members – Everyone present introduced themselves.

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 State Athletic Commission
Haskell Alexander – Chickasaw Nation Gaming Commission
Joey Miller – Citizen Potawatomi Nation Athletic Commission
Josef Mason – Colorado State Boxing Commission
Jill Peters – Comanche Nation Sports Commission
Mark Langlais – CT Dept of Emergency Services & Public Protection
Andy Foster – Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission
Alan Taniguchi – Hawaii Boxing Commission
Troye Blackmon – Kansas Athletic Commission
Todd Neal – KY Boxing & Wrestling Authority
Buddy Embanato – Louisiana Athletic Commission
Peter Boucharo – Combat Sports Authority of Maine
Patrick Pannella – Maryland Athletic Commission
Matthew Cooper – Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation Gaming Commission
Jim Erickson – Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
Jon Lewis – Mississippi Athletic Commission
Tim Lueckenhoff – Missouri Office of Athletics
Brian Dunn – Nebraska Athletic Commission
Aaron M. Davis – New Jersey State Athletic Control Board
Dan Wilkinson – New Mexico Athletic Commission
Terrance L. Merriweather – North Carolina Boxing Authority
Robert Carlson – North Dakota Athletic Commission
Joe Miller – Oklahoma State Athletic Commission
Ernie Gallardo – Pascua Yaqui Tribe Boxing Commission
Greg Sirb – Pennsylvania Athletic Commission
Bill Colbert – Pete Suazo Utah Athletic Commission
Daniel Caban – Puerto Rico Professional Boxing Commission
Lillie Butler – Siletz Tribal Athletic Commission
Pamela W. Shealy – South Carolina Athletic Commission
Phillip Martinez – Southern Ute Indian Boxing Commission
Elliot Lazore – St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Department of Athletic Regulation
Lee Parham – Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation

Susan Colard – Washington Department of Licensing
Alfred Grant – Washington D.C. Boxing Commission
Christopher Holder – Wichita Tribe Sports Commission

Approval of Meeting Minutes from 2011 Annual Meeting

Motion to accept minutes from 2011 ABC Conference made by Josef Mason (CO) and seconded by Dennis O'Connell (AZ). Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Report – Buddy Embanato (LA)

Please see attached report. Treasurer's report submitted by Treasurer Buddy Embanato for 2012 Fiscal Year. Andy Foster (GA) asked about the insurance charge that was on the report. Tim Lueckenhoff (MO) explained that this insurance provides protection for the Officers and Director of the ABC in case they are sued. He said that the insurance will be going up \$300-\$400 this year so they are doing due diligence to make sure they need it and that they are getting the best deal. Motion to accept Treasurer's report made by Peter Boucharo (ME). Seconded by Joe Miller (OK). Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report – Tim Lueckenhoff (MO)

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

Approval of the Wichita Affiliates Athletic Commission

Tim Lueckenhoff (MO) explained that the Wichita tribe was supervised 3 times but the person that did that supervision never filed a report. When Tim spoke with her on the phone the report was positive but now she is not answering phone calls or emails so he was unable to get written documentation. Chris Holder, Chairman of the Wichita Tribe Sports Commission, introduced himself, Matthew Roberson (Vice-Chair), Michael Snyder (Commissioner), and Thomas Peckinpugh, (Chief Inspector). He explained that they were established on March 22, 2011 and that they are affiliated with the Waco, Keechi and Tawakonie Tribes. He went on to say that they have sanctioned 6 MMA events at the Wichita owned Sugar Creek Casino in Hinton, OK. Three of those events were observed by Kim Wilson of the Seneca Nation. He stated that they have followed all of the rules that the ABC has established and that he really appreciates the assistance he has received from many ABC members. Dan Wilkinson (NM) asked Chris what lessons he had learned in doing these events. Chris explained that the first lesson they learned was that the fighters do not control them, the Tribe is in charge and that their first concern is for the safety and health of the fighter. Andy Foster (GA) asked who supervised the matchmaking. Chris explained that they do and that they don't go blindly in, they make calls to other commissions asking for help when necessary. Someone asked where they saw their commission in 5 years. Chris stated they will be strong members of the ABC and that they see themselves working with other tribal commissions to make sure everyone is using the unified rules that the ABC has developed. Todd Neal (KY) asked if they were still working with the NABC. Chris said No. That it was an unfortunate situation and that Gerald Wofford was asked to resign as soon as they returned from the 2011 ABC Convention. Joey Miller (CPN) asked what their affiliation with the promoter was and how do they separate themselves from the promoter. Chris explained that the only promoter they work with is Glenn Coleman. When Glenn gets an event together, Chris checks everything and that is the only association they have with him. Jim Erickson (Mille) asked if Kim communicated with him regarding her supervision of their events. Chris said that yes she did and that he actually has something from her in writing in his possession. Jill Peters (Comanche) asked if Kim had any suggestions for them and if they implemented them. Chris responded that yes she did, and that they did follow all of her recommendations. Matt Cooper (Mashantucket) asked how many inspectors they use. Chris said that they have 3 on staff and then they use separate security as well for a total of 6. He said that they normally have 10 to 12 bouts and that there are inspectors in every room. They have only done MMA bouts, not boxing. He also said that they require the promoter to have insurance. Joey Miller (CPN) asked about the security that they use as inspectors. Chris explained that the security guards are off duty employees of the casino and they contract them out. Todd Neal (KY) motioned that the Wichita Affiliates Athletic Commission be accepted as members of the ABC. Josef Mason (CO) seconded. Haskell Alexander (Chickasaw) asked Tim Lueckenhoff (MO) what Kim said to him in their phone conversation. He said that the Wichita's whole Commission and staff have observed them in their facility. President Lueckenhoff said that she spoke about the positive changes that the Wichita Commission has made. He said that judging from what he has heard, there was only 1 major issue and it was a suspension issue that was fixed. President Lueckenhoff thinks they will continue to grow and that he would be more comfortable if they approve them but send Jim Erickson (Mille) there to continue to help them develop. In light of not having a report, Jill Peters (Comanche) asked to amend the motion that they be accepted contingent upon one more visit from a member of the Tribal Advisory Committee. Todd Neal (KY) accepts the motion. Seconded by Haskell Alexander (Chickasaw). Motion passed unanimously. Aaron Davis (NJ) asked that the Tribal Advisory Committee provide a written report of their visit. Matt Cooper (Mashantucket) asked that they provide the ABC with a copy of the report in their possession.

Compliance Committee Report – Tim Lueckenhoff

Please see attached handout. President Lueckenhoff explained that every Monday he and the other members of the Compliance Committee receive an email from Fight Fax with a list of commissions that have let someone fight on suspension. He acknowledged that it has gotten much better but feels that the main problem is commissions forgetting

to contact Fight Fax to take fighters off suspension once the fighter has fulfilled his requirements for removing the suspension. He urged all commission to have a Fight Fax record for each boxer in their hand that states that the fighter is not on suspension. Aaron Davis (NJ) professed that it is our duty as a commission to follow the federal law on this subject. He believes we cannot call ourselves effective if we don't know what we are looking at and that this all needs to be taken very seriously. There was a lot of discussion about miscommunication and different commissions using different language on suspensions that are hard to understand. Jeff Keel (Chickasaw) asked if anything had been done with the committee that was set up last year to help make improvements or recommendations to Fight Fax. Tim Lueckenhoff (MO) explained that the committee never met and that 3 weeks ago he asked Pat Pannella (MD) to head it up. Mr. Pannella (MD) and Ani Miramontes from Fight Fax have been working on some terminology guidelines that will be posted on the ABC website.

Jeff Keel (Chickasaw) asked who was on the committee and who will head it. Phillip Martinez (S. Ute) expressed a desire to be on the committee. Susan Colard (WA) asked if the ABC could set something up to hold commissions accountable so this doesn't keep happening. Andy Foster (GA) spoke on Ani Miramontes behalf, stating that Ani does a good job and is available almost 24 hours a day. Jim Erickson (Mille) asked that people not get hung up on suspensions. He believes that what we really need is basic communication. Mr. Erickson explained that he handles many complaints from promoters, fighters and commissions against other commissions and the majority of the time it's a communication problem.

Fight Fax Record Keeper – Ani Miramontes

Ani Miramontes explained that this is the 15th year of boxers needing to have a Federal ID and that not everyone is taking it seriously. He stated that some states still do not even issue Federal ID's and that some get a number but never actually issue the ID. He explained that you must have a fighter in front of you in order to issue a Federal ID. The fighter must have a driver's license or something to prove that he or she resides in your state. They also need a social security card or a passport if the fighter is not from the US. Federal law states that every professional boxer must have a Federal ID card. It is the commission's responsibility to issue these and it needs to be taken very seriously. Pat Pannella (MD) explained that all the information you need is right on the fight fax and that one should be purchased for every fighter on your bout sheet. Ani also explained that when issuing a fight fax or ordering one, you must have the fighter's legal name, not a nickname.

Mr. Miramontes also spoke about suspensions, explaining that he cannot just take someone off suspension or change the language of a suspension, the commission must send him an email asking him to do so. He advised that if a commission does not understand the suspension on the fight fax, they should call the commission that issued the suspension, not him. It's really about the confusion that is going on with the language that each commission is using. He also suggests checking the miscellaneous list for people other than fighters that are on suspension. Mr. Miramontes recommends pulling a fight fax about 10 days before a fight and then checking the suspension list again right before the fight. He also urged each commission to read every comment on the fight fax. It is very important and there can be red flags.

Pat Pannella (MD) spoke about Boxrec.com and urged commissions not to use that website as it is not approved by the ABC. Just use Fight Fax. Mr. Pannella made a presentation on the terminology that he and Mr. Miramontes came up with for ABC affiliated commissions to report bout results and suspensions for Fight Fax. Please see attached handout. Mr. Pannella (MD) advised that under the Federal Boxing Law, medical suspensions must be honored.

Jeff Keel (Chickasaw) urged commissions to send fighters Federal ID cards if they issue them one. He also asked what was going on with the discussion they had last year about bringing Fight Fax more technologically up to date. President Lueckenhoff explained that the Fight Fax is under contract with the ABC for 2 more years and that when they renew they can go over things like that with Mr. Miramontes.

Bill Colbert (UT) asked what the policy is on letting a debut fighter fight without a Federal ID. He remarked on the issue of some states not issuing Federal ID's and then fighters come to his state and wanting to fight. It was determined that it is against the Federal Law to let anyone fight without a Federal ID.

Mark Langlais (CT) made a motion to accept the terminology for ABC Affiliated Commissions to report bout results and suspensions to Fight Fax for the suspension list and fighter reports/comments section. Seconded by Lee Parham (TX). Motion passed unanimously.

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. Kirik Jenness spoke about a handful of states that are still not paying for the service. Last year there was some discussion of them forming a kickboxing database but in the end, they decided it would cost too much money. The states that they are losing the largest amount of revenue from are Arizona, California, Tennessee and Massachusetts. He explained that in theory, the total lost per year is \$57,000 and that if he had that money, he could do a lot more to improve the database. Mr. Jenness talked about a mobile version of the database that is now available on smart phones.

The second thing they did in the last year is look at the rise of amateur mma. Most of these are sanctioned by sanctioning bodies and not states. They formed a parallel suspension system that allows the sanctioning body look up a fighter so they are aware if a fighter is under suspension. He also explained that they are working on a medical management system.

Tribal Advisory Committee – Jim Erickson (Mille)

Please see attached handout. Jim Erickson (Mille) introduced the members of the Tribal Advisory Committee and read their mission statement. He explained that they have quarterly conference calls.

Open Discussion

Federal ID's – Greg Sirb (PA)

Greg Sirb reiterated the importance of fighters having their Federal ID card. Susan Colard (WA) asked that the ABC put a committee together to do something about the commissions that are letting fighters fight without a Federal ID. She also quoted the Ali Act stating that each boxer "shall present a card no later than the weigh in." There was a lot of discussion about who should be enforcing the Ali Act. Greg Sirb (PA) believes the states should be enforcing it. Pat Pannella (MD) stated that we can require the boxer to show their ID within a certain number of days. Skip Brown (W. DC) stated that they inform all of their promoters that their fighter will not be allowed to fight without a Federal ID. Greg Sirb (PA) asked commissions to make an effort on this explaining that it is easy to do.

Fighter Skills – Greg Sirb (PA)

Greg Sirb (PA) recommended that every commission have an experience form that a trainer must sign stating that their debut fighter is ready to make his debut. That way if the fighter shows up with no skills you can not only suspend the fighter, but also the trainer. He believes this will stop a lot of fighters with no skills from fighting.

Suspensions – Greg Sirb (PA)

Greg Sirb (PA) spoke about the need for fighter's to sign a medical release form so that all commissions can have access to their medical records. He recommended that a database be set up for all fighters' medicals.

Drug Testing – Greg Sirb (PA)

Greg Sirb (PA) spoke about the importance that each state require drug testing. If a championship fight comes to your jurisdiction and you drug test the fighters and one of them fails the test but drug testing is not in your rules and regulations, what would you be able to do? He believes there should be a designated company that tests all fighters for title fights. That would take the burden off the commissions and make it uniform. Jeff Keel (Chickasaw) spoke about a company that they have contracted to do this service for them. When their Commission receives the results, they decide what penalty needs to take place. Pat English (NJ) spoke about the different levels of drug testing that takes place with the highest level being Olympic testing but that is very expensive. He says the first step would be to agree on what is prohibited. He recommends adopting the WADA list, stating there is a benefit to the list which is that any athlete can go to their website and see what drugs are prohibited. He believes the second step is to standardize the testing procedures stating that the standards across the US are ridiculously different. Wally Jernigan (NE) spoke about the need to set up a committee to take a therapeutic exemption approach. Noel Perez, from Request a Test, expressed that they have been testing fighters for over 10 years with commissions and that Request A Test offers many different options for testing fighters. They will go to fights and make sure the tests are immediately sent to labs. Their prices range from \$49 to \$299. Greg Sirb (PA) reiterated the need for 1 uniform drug test. If you are a commission, do the drug testing and put it in your rules and regulations. Mr. Sirb (PA) recommended a committee be formed to deal with this. Pat Reed (CAN) recommended that the Medical Committee be used for this.

Gloves – Greg Sirb (PA)

Greg Sirb (PA) showed examples of the following gloves:

Grant – There are 2 problems with the gloves, one, they are plastic and if they get wet the tape comes off. He also does not like the small thumb attachment. Mr. Sirb (PA) also spoke about the importance that tape not be on the glove itself. It should only cover the cuff. Stating that if it is on the glove, they have probably skinned the glove.

Ransdale – Foam is very hard and there is a big plastic design on the glove that could scratch a fighter. He also didn't like the logo believing that it could confuse the judges.

Ringside – Really likes, has a good thumb attachment. One piece cover on the thumb. Good wrist padding.

Fuel Gear – Has a good thumb attachment. Good wrist padding.

RFX Guerro – There are 2. He does not like either glove. Rival H is horse hair and the other is foam. He is not a fan of horse hair. He believes it should be removed from all gloves because it's moveable.

Adidas – It's a good basic glove but the thumb is nylon.

Everlast Hybrid – He does not like. It's like putting on mittens. It's difficult to get your hand in.

He explained that in testing the gloves, the first thing they do is weigh them. If it weighs over what it should, they cut the wrist, slice it in half and weigh the wrist. Then they cut it the long way to see what's inside. Maurico (WBC) spoke about how they have been working with 22 brands for 1 year. They hired a lab to test the raw materials and

performance. They came up with several conclusions, with a very important one being that none of the brands have an exact set weight, there's always a variation. He would like to meet with the ABC to share information about all of the brands they have tested.

Fighters Who Do Not Honor Bout Agreements – Greg Sirb (PA)

Greg Sirb (PA) recommends that they be suspended and if they are not licensed, do an administrative suspension.

Throwing In The Towel – Greg Sirb (PA)

Greg Sirb (PA) explained that if the fight is to be stopped, the referee, doctor or corner can stop it. The old rule was to throw the towel in. If the towel goes in the ring, the referee should call a time out. The referee should then ask the inspector if their corner threw the towel in. If that corner threw the towel in, the fight will then be over. What *should* happen is the corner should mount the ring apron. That way when the referee sees the corner, he will stop the fight. Aaron Davis (NJ) stated that it would be easier to avoid mishaps if each commission had a thorough pre-fight rules meeting.

Mismatches – Greg Sirb (PA) and Andy Foster (GA)

Greg Sirb (PA) advised that each commission has the ability to say “no” mismatches. Lydia Robertson (AR) asked what to do about these fights that look bad on paper but the trainer explains why the journeyman is “good” to fight. Then the debut fighter wins and what you were afraid of happening, happened. Andy Foster (GA) voiced his frustration with this and professed that his state is getting rid of this. Mr. Foster (GA) stated that boxing will die if we let them exploit kids like this. He recommends that Administrators go to the fights themselves and not just send their inspectors. Take notes, go to the gyms and watch them spar. Greg Sirb (PA) proclaimed that watching a fighter work out is a good indication of whether they can fight or not. Mark Langlais (CT) declared that if we are all on the same page and start saying no, this won't happen as often. Andy Foster (GA) recommends that you get to know the fighters in your state. Aaron Davis (NJ) recommended that each commission do their homework.

Letter of Good Standing – Greg Sirb (PA)

Greg Sirb (PA) explained that when a fighter from your state that fights out of the country, the country they are fighting in should ask you for a letter of good standing. Mr. Sirb (PA) spoke about a recent issue in Germany where a fighter was suspended in Florida because of a brain injury. Germany asked Florida for a Letter of Good Standing. Florida wrote the letter so the promoter let them fight. Greg Sirb (PA) asked the promoter if they requested a fight fax on the fighter. The promoter stated that he had not. Greg Sirb (PA) recommended to commissions, that if a Letter of Good Standing is requested from them, the letter should state the following:

This is the fighter that does reside in my state and this is his Federal ID number. For a complete record and suspension list, please contact Fight Fax.

Alberto Leon (WBC) spoke about an official document like the Federal ID that they are developing because of an issue with fighters from foreign countries having fake information. This document will be issued and enforced by the commission where the fighter is a resident. It will include their official records including a photograph and fingerprint. It will be easily verifiable by the commission that issued it. Mr. Leon (WBC) stated that it is a work in progress. Ani Miramontes (FF) urged all commissions to be very careful about accepting official records from another country. Greg Sirb (PA) recommended that each commission ask for a passport. That should verify the fighter.

Introduction of 2013 Convention Site – Tim Lueckenhoff (MO)

President Lueckenhoff introduced the 2013 convention site as the Grand Hyatt Regency in San Antonio, Texas. Training will take place July 27-28 and the annual meeting will take place July 29-31. Hotel rates will be \$129 per night.

Tuesday, July 24, 2012

Request A Test – Noel Perez and Carolyn Solis

Please see attached handout. Mrs. Perez spoke about the history of Request A Test and gave a description of the services they can provide for commissions.

MEDLIC Medical Database – Jan Hubbard

Please see attached handout. Marcy Chiarandini gave an overview of the services that MEDLIC database provides.

HBO, Punch Force/Speed Sensor Presentation/Compu-Box Overview - Jonathan Crystal

Please see attached handout. Mr. Crystal gave a presentation on a technology that HBO has been developing for 3 to 4 years called Punch Force. Punch Force is a system which detects the force speed and occurrence of punches in real time during a live boxing event. They have engineered wireless sensors that are embedded in the boxers hand wraps. After the boxers hands are wrapped, they add the sensor to the underside of the wrist. Ultimately the sensor is taped to the wrist and is covered by the cushion in the glove. The sensor itself with the battery, transmitter and rubber casing weighs

less than 3/10 of an ounce. The sensor transmits to a ring side antenna which is linked to a ring side computer that makes the information instantly accessible in the form of graphics. It relies on algorithms to determine speed force and punch occurrence. HBO hired IBM and Price Waterhouse, who have expertise in this, to come in and assess where they are, if the product is working and where they could tighten up their game. Price Waterhouse said that, "as a result of our procedures, it appears that the statistical modeling approach, including the assumptions made, are reasonable for providing real time consumer data during a live event." IBM also gave their approval as to the methodology. Both companies made recommendations about how they can improve the product that they are following. Mr. Crystal explained that they have had a lot of support in the boxing community. He professed that they have used the sensors in 9 televised under cards and have been lying under the radar in order to get people comfortable with the product. They have received no complaints in the over 100 fighters in about 65 sanctioned fights in various jurisdictions that have used the sensor. Pat English (NJ) praised the presentation and believes that the product is needed. Greg Sirb (PA) asked how they counted a non scoring punch. Mr. Crystal stated that that is a limitation to the system, that they can be more pointed on a punch that makes significant impact. Andy Foster (GA) voiced his concern that if the commentators have that information, they can change the perception of the way the fight is seen which might ruin a judge or commission. Mr. Crystal explained that they would educate the announcers and be responsible in the way the information is used. Mark Langlais (CT) asked if they had been approached by the medical community. Mr. Crystal said they have been approached by a doctor that sits on the NY Commission. There was some concern that this would be used as a matchmaking tool. Matthew Valenzuela (AZ) asked how they are able to determine the actual Compu-box numbers. Mr. Crystal explained that Compu-box has a guy assigned to each fighter who determines when punches are thrown, which of those landed and then they make a distinction in which of those are jabs are power punches. HBO has incorporated a second team to determine the punch zone. Compu-Box is more of a manual process that goes by in real time. Punch-Force is good at determining if a punch is thrown, it just isn't able to determine if the punch is a true scoring blow.

Instant Replay - Tom Hauser

Mr. Hauser explained that he was asked by HBO to open dialog with the ABC about the use of video review by officials during the course of a fight to check on the calls of the referee. He stated that instant video review has worked well in numerous other sports. Mr. Hauser believes that watching fights becomes a more satisfying experience and it's in the best interest of boxing that the officials get the calls right. Mr. Hauser explained that HBO sports has been thinking about the role that instant review might play in boxing but ultimately that's an issue for resolution by the ABC. He also affirmed that they are willing to provide assistance to the ABC in the event that instant replay is implemented. Mr. Hauser gave examples where instant review has been successfully used. He advised that video review can only work if it does not interrupt the flow of the fight, explaining that in other sports the officials can stop the flow of the action but that cannot be done in boxing. Mr. Hauser believes it should only be used to issue a fact, not a judgment call. Mr. Hauser explained that if instant review is implemented, the consensus is that there should be a separate dedicated video monitor at the Athletic Commissions table. A designated commission representative would review the video in a timely manner. A referee's call can only be overturned on the basis of clear unambiguous evidence. Under some proposals only the referee or another designated official can call for a replay. Under other proposals each fighter's corners would be allowed one or more challenges. He acknowledged that few commissions have the financial ability for instant video review and that it would only come to fruition if TV provided the funds and technological expertise to implement it. Mr. Hauser believes commissions need to ask themselves 2 questions. One being, if they would feel comfortable with allowing producers in a truck to flag key replay angles since they are the ones that have access to everything? Two, do you want one set of rules for major fights with sophisticated television coverage and big budgets and another set of rules for non-television or low budget television. He acknowledged that in many jurisdictions, instant review would require new rules and possibly new legislation. He advised the ABC that HBO is willing to help in any way they can. Greg Sirb (PA) believes you must watch the instant replay in the 1 minute rest period but asked what the judges should do with their score cards in that instance. Mauricio Sulaiman (WBC) believes that instant replay is a must. Pat English (NJ) explained that he has been involved in major litigations that involved instant replaying of the fight and the thing that struck him is that you can't rely on any camera angle. It can be an illusion because of an angle.

Open Scoring Presentation - Alberto Leon and Mauricio Sulaiman (WBC)

Please see attached handout. Alberto Leon and Mauricio Sulaiman gave a presentation on open scoring. They believe that open scoring takes the fight away from the judges and puts the fight back in the hands of the fighters. There was much discussion about this with many commissions having an issue with it. Pat English (NJ) voiced that if the fighter knows he's ahead, it is the responsibility of the trainer to tell the fighter to stay out of harm's way. He also believes open scoring might cause an issue with unruly crowds.

½ Point Scoring System - George Martinez

Please see attached handout. Mr. Martinez believes this will give Judges an extra tool so they can eliminate even rounds.

WADA Listing

There was discussion on the Wada list with Susan Colard (WA) asked if we could get all commissions on the same page as far as drug testing. Bill Colbert (UT) made a motion to adopt the WADA list. Seconded by Aaron Davis (NJ). Motion passed. Bill Colbert (Utah) advised that the Wada list is updated every year so commissions should be aware of that.

Lydia Robertson (AR) mentioned that some of the drugs on the list are prescription drugs. Dr. Wulkins advised that there are therapeutic exemption forms available on the ABC website.

Unified Rule Change - Tim Lueckenhoff (MO)

Please see attached handout. President Lueckenhoff explained that the following change has been made under accidental fouls in the unified rules: If an accidental foul causes an injury severe *enough* for the referee to stop the bout after 4 rounds have occurred, the bout will result in a technical decision awarded to the boxer ahead on the score cards at the time the bout is stopped. The word *immediately* was also removed from the statement. Motion to accept the change to the unified rules was made by Dan Wilkinson (NM) and was seconded by Peter Boucharo (Maine). Motion passed.

Time Between Rounds – Tim Lueckenhoff (MO)

Please see attached handout. President Lueckenhoff stated that he received a letter from NBC asking the ABC to consider a 6 second addition to the rest period of a boxing match. Pat English (NJ) made a presentation referring to a letter that he had just received from ESPN. They would like to add 4 seconds to the rest period between rounds. Mr. English believes that this is important to implement to promote the sport of boxing. It's not an issue in Showtime and HBO fights since there are no commercials. He stated that many commentators believe that the declining venue of network TV has been a contributing factor in the decline of the popularity of boxing. Mr. English affirmed that there is no doubt that that is true and advised that ESPN has been struggling with this problem. He attested that in many ESPN fights at the beginning and end of rounds they are often choppy and sometimes come back to the fight after the bell has already rung which leads to a less than desirable viewing experience. He stated that boxing is coming back, now being shown on NBC. He urged that we need to make these boxing series successful to get people back interested in the sport of boxing. The will help save the sport. Mr. English urged all ABC commissions to consider this because there is a big need to get people back involved in the sport of boxing. Peter Boucharo (Maine) asked why they can't just do a 15 second delay. Mr. English explained that there are requirements that if you say something is "live" it has to be live. Bill Colbert (Utah) remarked that he would hate to change the tradition. President Lueckenhoff remarked that you wouldn't have to change your rule, you would treat your rest period the same as you always did and that if the ABC considers this there would have to be stipulations. Dennis O'Connell (AZ) would like to know if the ABC changed this, would the seconds out whistle go at 50 seconds or 57 seconds. Greg Sirb (PA) explained that NBC approached NV, NY and Penn to do their fights. NV, NY and Penn gave NBC an extra 1 minute and 3 seconds and stated that nobody knew the difference. Dr. Sheryl Wulkan stated that from a medical point of view, it makes no difference in fighter safety. Both fighters are getting the same rest period so it's fine.

Joe Miller (OK) made a motion that at the discretion of the member commissions, up to a 7 second rest period is acceptable for live televised boxing events only. Rest periods shall remain the same with the whistle blowing at 50 seconds and ring cleared at 60 seconds. Seconded by Lydia Robertston (AR).

Greg Sirb (PA) urged that there should be a maximum of 3 seconds. He believes 7 seconds would be a big difference. Skip Brown (DC) asked how you would determine the number of seconds since the rule states up to 7. President Lueckenhoff stated that that is something each commission would negotiate with the network.

The following people were opposed:

Peter Boucharo – Combat Sports Authority of Maine
Aaron Davis – New Jersey
Jim Colbert – Pete Suazo Utah Athletic Commission
Andy Foster – Georgia
Patrick Pannella - Maryland

The following people were for:

Joe Miller – Oklahoma State Athletic Commission
Jim Erickson – Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
Chris Holder – Wichita
Elliott Lazore – St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Dept. of Athletics
Mark Langus – Connecticut
John Lewis – Mississippi
Buddy Embanado – Louisiana
Allan Taniguchi – Hawaii
Dennis O'Connell – Arizona
Pamela Shealy – South Carolina
Dan Wilkinson – New Mexico
Jill Peters – Comanche Nation
Alfred Grant – Washington DC
Susan Colard – State of Washington

Haskell Alexander – Chickasaw Gaming Commission

Lydia Roberts – Arkansas

Ernie Garlardo – Pascua Yaqui Tribe

Phillip Martinez – Southern Ute Indian Tribe

Motion Passes

Federal Boxing Commission Legislation - Nick Lembo (NJ)

Please see attached handout. Mr. Lembo (NJ) explained that this legislation is a long way away from passage or consideration of passage. This legislation would create a United States Boxing Commission. That Federal Commission would oversee or have a role in the oversight of any bout that is 10 rounds or over or bouts that are advertised as championships. At that point they would have an issue in licensing the fighters, medicals, bout approval, approval of officials and there would be reporting requirements that the states or jurisdictions would have to follow. Bill Colbert (UT) asked if it would be an unfunded mandate. Mr. Lembo stated that yes, the way it reads now, it would be unfunded. He reiterated that the bill has a long way to go before it would even be considered. Jon Lewis (MS) stated that the previous bill made it through the senate but it ran out of time. Mr. Lembo explained that it has to go through the entire process again. Jon Lewis (MS) wanted to know what the ABC's position is on the bill believing that we need a unified vote on whether we support it or not. President Lueckenhoff remarked that the ABC voted to oppose the bill 6 or 7 years ago. Mr. Lewis (MS) made a motion to oppose the bill. Andy Foster (GA) seconded for the purpose of discussion. Dennis O'Connell (AZ) stated that he was uncomfortable voting on this. Andy Foster (GA) strongly believes the ABC should not vote on this. Greg Sirb (PA) believes it's way too early in the process to vote on the bill but that as it reads, it doesn't affect his commission at all. Jeff Keel (Chickasaw) expressed his concern that while the bill may not impact certain commissions, it would directly impact all the tribal commissions, giving them another federal agency to answer to. He believes the bill is something that each tribe would need to take to their tribal government. Jon Lewis (MS) voiced his concern that the bill could pass before the ABC body has a chance to meet again. Lydia Robertson (AR) believes the ABC needs a lobbyist before the bill is voted on. Wally Jernigan, (NE) made a motion to table the discussion. Seconded by Dan Wilkinson (NM). Motion passes.

MMA Training Committee Report - Nick Lembo (NJ)

Please see attached handout. Mr. Lembo (NJ) advised that the two training courses that were submitted to the training committee that were reviewed and approved were Glenn Trowbridge from Nevada who was approved to teach the judges training course and Blake Grice from South Carolina who was approved to teach the referee's training course. Andy Foster (GA) made a motion to accept the two new trainers who were approved by the MMA Training Committee in the last year. Seconded by Pam Shealy (SC). Motion passed.

ABC Medical Committee Report - Chairperson, Dr. Sheryl Wulkan

Please see attached handout. Dr. Wulkan explained that last year the committee developed a handbook with suggested minimum health and safety guidelines. This year the committee has decided to focus on 2 specific areas. The controversy's in combat sports medicine and ringside physician education. The committee felt it necessary to train more physicians because of the rise in events. They felt the need to unify and standardize the base line of ringside physician educational requirements.

Contestants Who Have Had A Subdural Hematoma, License Them or Not - Dr. John Stiller

Please see attached handout. Dr. John Stiller gave a presentation on brain injuries in combative sports. Pat Pannella (MD) added that the more detailed each commission can be on a fighters fight fax will help other Commissions decide whether or not to license a fighter. You will know what happened and can make an educated decision.

Brain Pad, Inc. - Chris Bolan

Please see attached handout. Chris Bolan made a presentation on a jaw-joint protector mouth guard.

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

MMA Scoring Committee - Jeff Mullen (TN)

Please see attached handout. Jeff Mullen explained that 2 years ago a committee was formed to work on a ½ point system for MMA. They did a study on the system for 1 year. The following Commission volunteered to use the system:

Georgia – Said it made no difference

Colorado – Used the system in over 550 fights and said it made no difference

CAMO – Made a difference in only 2% of their fights

Edmonton, Alberta – Made a 4.85% difference

These findings meant that they used the system right because it should only make a difference in a small number of fights. They believe that the system would be good if every fight had top tier judges but aren't convinced that every

judge would be good at using the system. The committee recommends that the ½ point system not be adopted. The ABC should stick with the 10 point system.

Mr. Mullen also explained that the committee talked about re-prioritizing and redefining the current judging system. They made the following changes:

1. Removed effective defense from the judging criteria. They don't believe that defense should be a judging criteria.
2. Striking used to be considered above grappling. Now the 2 will be of equal weight.
3. The word *damage* will no longer be used in judging criteria. Instead, the words *effect* and *impact* will be used.
4. They put effective aggression above cage control.

Pat English (NJ) asked what input the MMA community had in the rule changes. Mr. Mullen stated that each committee member spoke to people in their jurisdiction. Michael Mersch, (UFC) remarked that he had only seen the rule changes the day before and was not given the opportunity to weigh in on them. He expressed his desire to do so. Susan Colard (WA) requested a hard copy of the rule changes be provided to the commissions before they make a decision on whether or not to pass. Bill Colbert (UT) made a motion to approve the recommendations of the committee regarding the ½ point system. Seconded by Bryan Dunn (NE). Motion passed.

There was more discussion on whether or not to vote on the judging criteria recommendations from the committee. Michael Mersch (UFC) remarked that they should have the ability to provide input. President Lueckenhoff advised that a mail in ballot could always be done later in the year. Susan Colard (WA) motion made a motion that this issue be voted on in a mail in ballot in 6 months. Lydia Robertson (AR) would like for the public comments to be in writing on the ABC website. Susan Colard (WA) accepts the amendment. Seconded by Dan Wilkinson (NM). Bill Colbert (UT) moved to amend that it be voted on in 3 months. Susan Colard (WA) accepts. Motion passed. President Lueckenhoff advised that he would put a press release on the ABC website. Aaron Davis (NJ) suggested all commissions put the information on their website and send a letter out to all promoters.

Amateur Rules Committee - Andy Foster (GA)

Mr. Foster advised that several states have implemented the amateur rules that were passed last year. He encourages commissions that haven't adopted these rules to do so. Mr. Foster urged states to regulate amateur MMA themselves or not to regulate it at all. It was noted that there are 12 states where amateur mixed martial arts is legal but unregulated. Greg Sirb (PA) would like the ABC to make a policy statement on their website stating that if you are an amateur fighter and you fight in a state or on tribal land that is unregulated, your fight will be listed as a non-sanctioned fight. He would also like to advise them that they are taking their life in their hands and to make sure there is insurance, a doctor, physicals, and so on. Todd Neal (KY) would like to add that if you fight in a NSF you will receive a mandatory 90 day suspension. President Lueckenhoff advised that a small committee would be set up to draft that policy. As soon as it's done he will email it out and put it on the ABC website. Todd Neal (KY) made a motion that any fighter who fights in an unsanctioned fight will be suspended on the official MMA database, www.abc.mixedmartialarts.com, for 60 days. Seconded by Andy Foster (GA). Josef Mason (CO) advised that it's not legal to suspend a fighter without giving them the opportunity to defend themselves as far as how the event was regulated. Bill Colbert (UT) explained that is commission requires all fighters that have participated in an unsanctioned event to provide them with all medicals, including blood work all over again. President Lueckenhoff explained that it's not really suspending the fighter, it's more denying their license. Greg Sirb (PA) did not like the idea of suspending them, rather, he suggested that the ABC come up with a policy stating that a fighter "may" be suspended for fighting in an unsanctioned fight and that you "will" face an automatic suspension if you are KO'd or TKO'd in that fight. President Lueckenhoff referred back to the motion, taking a vote. Motion failed.

Selection of Officials in MMA - Andy Foster (GA)

Mr. Foster remarked that there has rarely been a problem as prevalent as quality MMA officials. He stated that the single most important person is a qualified referee. Mr. Foster remarked that the referee is the first line of protection for a fighter and advised all commissions find a qualified referee and stick with them. He believes that you are putting your commission and fighters at risk without a qualified referee. He also believes that each referee should have training in the sport they are refereeing. Aaron Davis (NJ) plead that all commissions not just bring in a well known boxing referee or judge to do an mma event. He attested that they are completely different sports that urged commissions to develop referees that have expertise in the sport and develop them.

Mr. Foster went on to say there was the same issue with judges. He advised commissions to pick judges that train or have trained in the sport. He believes all officials should take a written test. He also stated that commissions should be picking the judges, not promoters, and to always use your best judges, stop taking turns with them. Mr. Foster believes that each official should be compensated based on their skill level.

Review of Grounded Opponent Rule - John McCarthy

John McCarthy and Jerin Velet gave a demonstration on the grounded opponent rule.

Association of Ringside Physicians - Dr. Schwanie

Dr. Schwanie stated that head gear is good for limiting cuts and secondary impacts but remarked that no one can say that it guards against concussion. Dr. Schwanie explained that they are doing a survey right now for ringside physicians in order to define who a ringside physician is. He explained that this survey is the base of a project they are doing with the American College of Sports Medicine. The American College of Sports Medicine has 10,000 members and is the largest society in the world. The ARP has become their affiliate. The ACSM has given the ARP 3 designated test designers to assist them in making an exam for certification of ringside physicians. He also explained that at the suggestion of the ACSM, they are working with the NFL Physicians Group regarding therapeutic exemptions since they have seen and heard it all.

IEBA - Dr. Schwanie

Please see attached handout. Greg Sirb (PA) asked that all commissions call him or Tim Lueckenhoff if the WSB comes to their state so they can educate them on what IEBA is about and how to handle it. Dennis O'Connell (AZ) stated that he would be happy to prepare a report on IEBA and present it to the ABC next year.

ABC Uniform Procedures for Requesting and Forwarding Medical Examinations and Test Results for Boxers and MMA Contestants - Pat Pannella (MD)

Please see attached handout.

Canadian Membership, Shirley Stunzi (Calgary)

Shirley Stunzi (Calgary) explained that they looked at the possibility of having a Canadian vote and as a group decided not to have that come forward. They don't feel appropriate voting on or regulating American Associations. She also expressed that they appreciate very much that they are able to work with the ABC and have an associate membership.

Fight Fax, the MMA Database and Federal ID's - Susan Colard (WA)

Susan Colard (WA) stated that she is very concerned about the non-use of Fight Fax, MMA, LLC, and Federal and National ID's. She stated that she would like the ABC, as a body, to stand up and say that they will take action and punish those commissions that are not using these. Josef Mason (CO) noted that a lot of fighters say they never received their Federal ID card. He stated that his commission is remedying the situation by making them get their Federal ID at least a week in advance. He noted that it's not always the commissions fault, a lot of times it's the fighters. President Lueckenhoff stated that he has had this conversation many times and maybe the ABC needs to boot somebody out. Andy Foster (GA) pronounced that it's normally the same commissions doing this over and over and the answer shouldn't be to boot them out, it should be to talk to their boss. Susan Colard (WA) stated that President Lueckenhoff does do that but there are no consequences. There needs to be discipline. We should support President Lueckenhoff on this issue and come up with a standard. We are talking about people's lives. Lydia Robertson (AR) asked if there was a disciplinary committee. President Lueckenhoff answered yes. Andy Foster (GA) urged all commissions that if they didn't do anything else all day, to please check suspensions. Pat Pannella (MD) advised commissions to talk to their staff. President Lueckenhoff stated that the first thing they do is send an email but maybe they need to go back to sending letters. Dan Wilkinson (NM) noted that most of the violators are not at the convention. President Lueckenhoff asked the Canadian Commissions to start issuing National MMA ID's. Susan Colard (WA) made a motion that all ABC member commissions use the MMA database when regulating amateur and professional mixed martial arts events in their jurisdiction. Seconded by Aaron Davis (NJ). Dennis O'Connell (AZ) stated that we cannot make it mandatory, that it's not in our jurisdiction. Aaron Davis (NJ) stated that you cannot effectively regulate MMA without using the database. Motion passed.

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