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August 6, 2013

Tim,

The following is a recap of the July 6 event at Black Bear Casino near Carlton, Minnesota. The event was promoted by Jungle Boy Promotions, and regulated by the Fond Du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Athletic Commission.

Pre-Bout:

I was contacted to serve as ABC observer for the event by Executive Director Mike Himango. I had worked with Mike previously during events that the Mille Lacs Department of Athletic Regulation had regulated at Black Bear Casino, as well as at inspector training in Hinckley, Minnesota.

Several personnel were dedicated to handle the weigh-in process. New licensing processes are being developed and refined. All contracts, medical history forms, waivers, medical information release forms etc, were organized and thoroughly covered with the contestants.

Review of Federal ID cards was an area of opportunity. Mike and I discussed the importance of positively identifying all combatants.

Licensing of corner personnel was not verified, so some unlicensed corner men may have been at ringside and in the dressing room area.

Gloves were not checked at weigh-ins and as a result, there was a scramble at fight time to remedy a shortage of 8oz gloves.

Dr. Don Muzzi conducted pre-bout physicals in conjunction with the weigh-in.

Mike required Fight Fax records to be run on all boxers to ensure that there were none of the contestants were serving a suspension.

With the exception of a few needed adjustments, the weigh-in was well run. Mike made sure adequate resources were available to conduct licensing and welcome the boxers.

The ring was inspected and rope tensions adjusted by Mike's lead inspector.

Bout Time:

As bout time approached, the locker rooms were labeled for the contestants, and water, ice, and towels were available in the locker room area.

There was some confusion with the score cards, as the promoter had made some changes in the program. Mike and his crew printed up new scorecards to alleviate the problem.

The inspectors worked with the Mille Lacs contracted inspectors and witnessed handwraps, etc. Their first event was not without some bumps in the road, but they did a nice job. The inspectors and security had some issues with unlicensed/ non- credentialed people in the dressing room area. The promoter was allowing access, and the inspectors/commission need to establish expectations prior to the start of the event to avoid confusion.

The ambulance, ambulance personnel and cage-side physician were all in their assigned areas prior to the start of the event.

The event moved along smoothly.

Post Bout:

Dr. Muzzi was released after all follow-up checks were made with the contestants. The Commission made arrangements for pay outs and supervised the process. The detailed pay out process ensured all officials and contestants were paid and all purse deductions were explained.

Summary:

Mike Himango and the Fond Du Lac Commission are moving aggressively toward becoming an efficient and effective commission. Training and training updates are ongoing, and they have the support of the property and Tribe.

It was a great pleasure for me to work with the Fond Du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Athletic Commission, and I look forward to their continued development. It would be my honor to help in the future.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Erickson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Respectfully,".

Jim Erickson

2nd VP Association of Boxing Commissions

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June 18, 2014

Tim,

This is an update on the Fond Du Lac Commission's progress. The information is from boxing events regulated by the Fond Du Lac Commission on October 19, 2013, January 25 and April 19, 2014.

Pre-Bout:

The Fond Du Lac Commission has become very effective during licensing and weigh-ins.

Appropriate medicals are gathered and organized prior to licensing, and later archived for sharing with ABC member Commissions.

During the licensing process fighters were positively IDed.

Pre-bout physicals were always conducted in conjunction with the weigh-in.

Bout Time:

As bout time approached, the locker rooms were labeled for the contestants, and water, ice, and towels were available in the locker room area.

Score cards and tally sheets were printed and ready prior to fight time.

The inspectors worked well together, and discovered a pair of gloves assigned to one of the fighters was of the incorrect weight and acquired the correct gloves prior to the bout.

The ambulance, ambulance personnel and cage-side physician were all in their assigned areas prior to the start of the event.

The events all moved along smoothly, with the exception of a problem with the ring at the April 19th event. As one of the heavyweight contestants was entering the ring, he back up as hard as he could against the ropes to check their tension and a cable securing the corner posts beneath the ring failed. The ring crew corrected the problem and there were no other issues with the ring.

Post Bout:

The ringside Physician was released after all follow-up checks were made with the contestants. The commission has deployed a smooth payout process.

Summary:

Mike Himango and the Fond Du Lac Commission have rounded the corner and have become a more efficient and effective commission.

Ongoing inspector training ensures a large enough inspector pool to cover the events.

It was a great pleasure for me to work with the Fond Du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Athletic Commission, and I look forward to their continued development. It would be my honor to help in the future.

Respectfully,

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October 3, 2013

Tim,

The following is a recap of the September 7 MMA event at Black Bear Casino near Carlton, Minnesota. The event was promoted by Fearless Fighting Championship, and regulated by the Fond Du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Athletic Commission.

Pre-Bout:

The Fond Du Lac Commission is still streamlining their licensing process and has developed technology to easily record the photos of license applicants.

During the licensing process fighters were positively IDed and the commission made National ID applications available for those without a national ID.

There was a bit of regression in the area of collecting contracts from the promoter. As the weigh-ins started, the commission did not have the weights transferred to the weigh-in sheet, because the promoter had not submitted the bout agreements prior to weigh-ins.

Gloves were inspected at weigh-ins and all contestants tried on gloves and the appropriate size was noted to ensure the fighter got gloves of the same size the next night at the event.

Dr. Don Muzzi conducted pre-bout physicals in conjunction with the weigh-in.

There was an issue with last-minute arrangements with the referees prior to the bout. The commission needs to set the expectations with the promoter and stick to them.

The cage was inspected and some of the padding around metal channels had been assembled improperly, but the problem was fixed promptly and properly.

Bout Time:

As bout time approached, the locker rooms were labeled for the contestants, and water, ice, and towels were available in the locker room area.

Score cards and tally sheets were printed and ready prior to fight time.

The inspectors worked with the Mille Lacs contracted inspectors and witnessed handwraps, etc.

The ambulance, ambulance personnel and cage-side physician were all in their assigned areas prior to the start of the event.

The event moved along smoothly, with the exception of the main event. When the main event concluded, one of the fighters got in an argument with his opponent and his opponent's corner. The inspectors in the cage need to make sure the contestants are separated at that point and security is called if necessary. The escalation was eventually handled and the offending fighter was immediately removed from the property and subsequently fined and suspended.

Post Bout:

Dr. Muzzi was released after all follow-up checks were made with the contestants. Although there were only 2 professional bouts, the commission still needs to witness payouts to avoid issues at a later time.

Summary:

Mike Himango and the Fond Du Lac Commission are moving aggressively toward becoming an efficient and effective commission. Training and training updates are ongoing, and they have the support of the property and Tribe. Mike and his commission need to study and become familiar with their rules and regs and keep a copy at ring/cage side for reference. The commission needs to regulate the event and the promoter and not allow the promoter to talk them into doing things outside of their printed rules.

It may be advantageous to do a more in-depth training with some of the lead inspectors in an effort to more equally share the responsibilities of regulating events.

It was a great pleasure for me to work with the Fond Du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Athletic Commission, and I look forward to their continued development. It would be my honor to help in the future.

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Jim Erickson

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