

Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission
 Commission Meeting
 April 18, 2013

The Commission Meeting for the Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission was held on Thursday April 18, 2013, at The Sloppy Floyd Government Office Building 2 MLK Jr. Drive Atlanta, GA 30334.

The following Commissioners were present:	Others Present:
J.J. Biello- Chairman- by phone Rick Thompson- by phone Moses Ector- Vice Chairman Ben Kiker	Kelly Farr- Executive Director Matt Woodruff Attorney General Office [Graham Barron] Opie Bowen Mark Miles John Brazell Khunpon
	David Oblas Megan Swartslander Keith McDermott Jon Marigliano Brett Moses Nate Mann

Vice Chairman Moses Ector established that a quorum was present and the Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission meeting that were scheduled to begin at 11:00 a.m. was called to order at 11:00am a.m.

Motion to Approve the commission meeting minutes from March 21st, 2013. Chairman J.J. Biello makes a motion to approve, and Commissioner Ben Kiker seconds that motion. The commission votes 4-0 to approve.

Motion to Approve the 6/1/2013 MMA Combat Quest event permit. Vice Chairman Ector asked Matt Woodruff if all the proper paperwork has been submit. Mr. Woodruff stated that everything for this permit has been submitted. Chairman Biello makes a motion and Commissioner Kiker seconds. The Commission votes 4-0 to approve.

Motion to Approve the 6/15/2013 MMA Combat Quest event permit. Vice Chairman Ector asked Mr. Woodruff if all the proper paperwork has been submit. Mr. Woodruff stated that everything for this permit has been submitted. Commissioner Kiker makes a motion to approve the event, and Chairman Biello seconds. The Commission votes 4-0 to approve.

Motion to Approve the 6/8/2013 MMA NFC #57 event permit. Vice Chairman Ector asked Mr. Woodruff if all the proper paperwork has been submit. Mr. Woodruff stated that everything for this permit has been submitted. Chairman Biello makes a motion

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to approve the event, and Commissioner Kiker seconds. The Commission votes 4-0 to approve.

Motion to Approve the 6/21/2013 MMA Bangkok Fight Night event permit. Vice Chairman Ector asked Mr. Woodruff if all the proper paperwork has been submit. Mr. Woodruff stated that everything for this permit has been submitted. Commissioner Kiker makes a motion to approve and Chairman Biello seconds. The Commission votes 4-0 to approve.

Follow up Discussion on headgear with kickboxing. Mr. Woodruff stated that at the March meeting, we discussed the board's policy, and the three fight minimum requirement for fighters having to wear the headgear. Mr. Woodruff said that he was able to find rules in place for the ISKA, World Kickboxing Association, and the IKF. The ISKA rule states that all amateur kick boxers must wear headgear. The World Kickboxing Association states that all novice kick boxers are to wear headgear. The IKF rule is a 3 fight minimum, where you have to be above .500 winning record to remove the headgear. Commissioner Kiker wanted to know what the disagreement is with headgear, and Mr. Woodruff stated that there is no rule in place, it is just a policy. We need to have a rule put in place. Vice Chairman Ector wants to know if there is any reason as to why we should not follow the ISKA rules, and make all amateur kick boxers wear headgear. Commissioner Kiker said that the headgear has always worked well, but there are fighters, who after so many amateur fights wish to not wear the headgear. Commissioner Rick Thompson wants to know if the ISKA has advanced amateur rules, and Commissioner Kiker said everyone is amateur until they turn pro. Commissioner Thompson said that we have rules for both amateur and advanced amateur with MMA. Mr. Woodruff told him that we are looking for a rule on kickboxing and not MMA. Commissioner Thompson said that our rules in other sports allow amateur and advanced amateurs. Kelly Farr said that we are looking to get a rule in place only for amateur kickboxing. Commissioner Kiker feels that all amateurs should wear the headgear, but if they have the 3 fights then that satisfies some requirements. Mr. Woodruff stated that the problem sometimes is that there is not a database for kickboxing, so often times you does not know how many fights the fighter has actually had. Vice Chairman Ector feels for the safety of the fighters that there should a rule in place. He said that if we can verify the three fights, he has no issues letting the fighters not wear headgear, but unless that can be proven, he wants the fighters to have headgear on. Chairman Biello is not sure where he stands on this issue. Commissioner Thompson said to Chairman Biello that there is no rule in place concerning headgear and amateur fighters, and we are looking to implement a rule. Mr. Woodruff agreed with Commissioner Thompson and said that we are looking to put a rule in place. Chairman Biello asked to make sure that this rule is to protect the fighter, and Vice Chairman Ector said that was the reason for this. Chairman Biello said he likes the idea of amateur and advanced amateur rules for fighters to wear headgear. Mr. Woodruff wanted to have some clarification on how we could determine if a fighter has had 3 fights or not. Khunpon, promoter for Bangkok Fight Night, said that if a fighter goes through an ISKA tournament, they will have more than 3 fights. He also said that he is very professional about his shows and said that if a fighter does not meet the requirements then that fighter will have the headgear. Mr. Farr said that we can draft a rule based on the guidance that the board has

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provided us and bring it to the May meeting to be voted on. David Oblas said since there is no database for kickboxing, the promoters talk to trainers and fighters to get there records. Could we have these fighters sign an affidavit saying that this is there record, that way there are held responsible. Vice Chairman Ector said that we can move forward to have the Secretary of State's office draft up a purposed rule for headgear, as well as looking to have an affidavit for the fighters to sign, with it being notarized saying what their record is. Commissioner Kiker makes the motion to have the Secretary of State's office draft up a rule; Chairman Biello seconds the motion, and the Commission votes 4-0 to have a rule drafted.

Request to Waive the 3 fight minimum for advanced amateur fighting by David Oblas. Chairman Biello wants to know if David has made the proper number of rounds for the event. Mr. Oblas said that he had 7 fights scheduled for the event, which is 21 rounds. Chairman Biello asked what the round requirement is, and Kelly Farr said it is 25 rounds. Chairman Biello said he has a problem with this, because it is a violation of the rules, however he does not want to cheat the other fighters who have trained for this and also does not want to cheat the audience out of watching these fights. Vice Chairman Ector said that the void needs to be filled, and that the event has to get to the 25 rounds. Mr. Oblas said he would work to get an exhibition kickboxing match, and Chairman Biello said he must get to the 25 round limit requirement. Mr. Oblas asked would he have a grappling match to get the rounds up. Vice Chairman Ector makes a motion to approve this, pending he can get his rounds up. Chairman Biello seconds, and the Commission votes 4-0. Commissioner Thompson wanted to know why the fight card is only at 21 rounds. Mr. Oblas said the card started a lot higher; however some fighters get hurt, can't get medicals turned in, etc. It is just one of those things as a promoter, is to have fights drop off. Commissioner Thompson said we need to make a ruling now if David is allowed to have the show, since he currently is in violation of the rules. Vice Chairman Ector said he does not want to allow David to break this rule in place, and if we go down this road, there is no return. Rules and regulations are there for a reason and we have to follow them. Commissioner Thompson wants clarification to what we are going to do with this show. Are we going to cancel this event if David cannot get the rounds needed? Vice Chairman Ector said that if he is not within the rules, then this event will be cancelled. Chairman Biello said that he understands it as an opportunity to fill these rounds, and he feels that this event should never have been approved because he does not make the round requirements. If he does go on without the 25 rounds, we will handle the situation later and then if this ever happens again, we will have something we can go off of. Commissioner Thompson wanted to know if the Secretary of State's office will cancel the event if it does not meet the requirements, or if we are going to let David have the event and then deal with the violation later. He wants to make sure that we are going to enforce our rules. He cannot violate our rules and then punish him for it. Vice Chairman Ector said he cannot violate the rules in place, because that would violate the oath he took. Commissioner Kiker recommended that we give Mr. Oblas 48 hours to get the rounds up. Mr. Woodruff said that if we give 48 hours, it would put us right at the show time. Mr. Oblas said that he had more than 25 rounds scheduled, but some of fights have fallen off, and he cannot help it if people get hurt. Vice Chairman Ector said at the time of the fight though, you do not meet the requirement. Mark Miles, promoter for Combat Quest, asked if David could have

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24 hours to get the rounds up. Mr. Miles has some fighters in Athens that he could see if they can fight. He hates to see an event get canceled whoever the promoter is, and he is willing to help David out with finding a fight or two. Mr. Farr stated that David violated this rule last weekend also at his April 12th show at Wild Bills; however it never made it onto the agenda because we ran out of time. He said when this has happened in the past, because it does happen. He said the commission's stance at the time was to allow the show to go on; however the promoter knew that disciplinary actions were coming, and then it became the promoter's option to either get the rounds up or take the punishment. Commissioner Thompson said that he does still not want to violate our rules, and does not want to cancel the event, but if we have to then we have to because he does not want to violate the rules. He is willing to give Mr. Oblas 24 hours to work to get some fights on the card to get the rounds up. Vice Chairman Ector want to give David Oblas 24 hours to get the rounds up, and if he cannot get the rounds up to 25 then the event will be cancelled. Chairman Biello said that a lot of things would still need to be done in that time frame with medical testing and finding fighters. Chairman Biello does not want to punish the other fighters. Mr. Oblas wanted to ask if an exhibition would count towards the rounds, and would jujitsu matches count towards the rounds. The commission said yes that would count. Mr. Oblas asked if those fighters would need medicals turned in, and the board said that they would need to have current medicals in. Mr. Oblas asked what if he schedules these and then they fall of from now until Saturday, and Vice Chairman Ector said that it is beyond the boards control to violate a rule. Vice Chairman Ector said that he is stepping on the edge to allow David 24 hours because normally he would just vote to cancel the whole thing. Chairman Biello does not like the idea of allowing this to happen, and makes a motion to cancel the event. No other Commission member seconds this, and the motion dies. Vice Chairman Ector makes a motion to give David Oblas 24 hours to get the round requirement up to 25 or the event be cancelled. Commissioner Kiker seconds, and the Commission votes 4-0 to allow David 24 hours.

Follow up Discussion with David Oblas in regards to boxing in a cage. Mr. Woodruff stated that David Oblas asked him to poll the other state commissioners to see if they would allow this to go on, and Mr. Woodruff said the 18 states would not or do not approve this, and 1 state, Kentucky, does allow boxing in a cage. Mr. Woodruff also said that Georgia has rules and laws in place that state boxing must be done in a square ring, with ropes and side. Vice Chairman Ector is not in favor of allowing this to take place. Chairman Biello makes a motion to deny this to take place, and no Commissioner seconds. Commissioner Kiker said that kick boxers fight in a cage, so boxers could do it, and it would help add rounds to your cards. Commissioner Thompson said that to just move on from this topic. He said that there is not enough here to even discuss it.

Discussion with David Oblas on the number of referees working an event. He stated that the GAEC hires two referees to work a show, each getting paid at \$300. Mr. Oblas said that the reason for this discussion is not a safety thing; it is simply a way for the promoters to save a little money. His suggestions would be have 1 referee and 1 judge flip flop between fights; have Blake Grice and Will Fisher work as both a judge and a referee for the night, so that way the promoter says \$150 on official fees. He also

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said you could use the time keeper as the backup referee in case the main referee gets hurt and cannot continue then the time keeper would be able to ref the remaining fights. Commissioner Kiker agrees with Mr. Oblas and said it is silly to hire out a referee who is just going to sit there and not do anything between fights. Mr. Woodruff told the board members that the reason for hiring 2 referees for an event, is in case one of the referees gets into an accident on the way to the show, and you were going to rotate between a ref and a judge, then you are short a judge for the night and the show cannot go on. Vice Chairman Ector makes a motion that we table this discussion until the May meeting when the entire commissioner are present for an in person discussion on this.

Discussion with David Oblas regarding the 5% gate fee that is due for an all amateur show. Commissioner Thompson said that the 5% gate fee has never been taken for an all amateur show; however if it was a GAEC sanctioned show then yes the 5% gate fee would need to be turned in. Commissioner Thompson asks that the Attorney General's office step in for their advice. He makes a motion to have the Attorney General's office write a purposed memo of advice with the 5% gate fee and how it needs to be handled. Commissioner Kiker seconds and the Commission votes 4-0.

Follow up Discussion on Dual Arch mouthpieces for amateur fighters. Mr. Woodruff stated that this topic was voted on back in September 2012 to add this rule into place; however that it never made it over to the Attorney General's office for public comment. Commissioner Thompson is not sure what we voted on and why is it being brought back up now. Mr. Farr stated that it would be a rule change to 85-1-.08 (1) (i) (4) and it would be "All amateur contestants shall use a mouthpiece that uses dual arch technology or protects both the upper and lower teeth". Commissioner Thompson said that he would like to review the minutes and tape from when this was voted on, before we re-vote to send it to the Attorney General's office. He makes a motion that we table this until the May meeting so we can review this a little more.

Discussion with Keith McDermott about Hydration Station, and the services he can provide to the fighters after the weigh-in. The services he would be providing would be a standard I.V. bag, toradol, and a B12 shot. Commissioner Thompson wants to know if a fighter needs to get an I.V. then aren't they cutting too much weight and it probably is not safe for them to be fighting in the first place. He also asked what other states are currently doing this procedure. Chairman Biello said that sometimes you have to cut the weight, but he wanted to make sure that the proper research on it was done. Mr. Woodruff stated that he reached out to the GAEC medial board for their take on this, and two of them came back stating that this was a common process and they did not see anything wrong with it. Vice Chairman Ector said that he is not going to allow this and he does not seem like it is fair. Commission Thompson agrees with Vice Chairman Ector and says what if only one of the fighters can pay for it and the other cannot pay for it. Mr. McDermott said that is part of the life we live in, and this company is willing to send a medical unit to the weigh in to help these fighters rehydrate. He said what would stop fighter from just coming into my office to get this done? There is nothing illegal going on about this service, we are just trying to come to the weigh in and offer it to all the fighters there. Vice Chairman Ector said that he

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would not allow this company to come to weigh ins. Commissioner Thompson and Chairman Biello agree saying that they would not allow this to happen.

Discussion on fighters blood work. Mr. Woodruff stated that we had a recent issue where a fighters blood was 181 days on the night of the fight and he wanted to have clarification on when the count started. He stated that the rule says 180 from the day conducted, which would mean the day the blood is drawn. The commissioner said to go from the way the rules read it as conducted then. Khunpon asked if the board would consider making the blood work be valid for 1 year instead of the 180 days, and all of the commissioners said that they like it to be valid for only 180 days.

Discussion with Brett Moses, about his upcoming show in June and if the 5% gate fee could be waived because his show is for the Army and on an Army base. Mr. Moses said that the Army is going to pay him a flat rate to come and work this show, and that they do not pay taxes since they are part of the United States Government. Vice Chairman Ector asked if there was anything in writing from the Army about this show, because he wants to see something in writing before voting on this matter. He makes a motion to table this until we have something in writing from the Army about this show.

Discussion with John Brazell, a 37 year old fighter, about the possibility of getting approved for a license as an amateur MMA fighter to fight on the May 11th card in Savannah. Vice Chairman Ector asked if all the proper medicals have been submitted and Mr. Woodruff said that they have not been submitted at all. Mr. Brazell stated that he wanted to wait to get those test done to see what the board might do. Chairman Biello asked if he was any fighting experience and Mr. Brazell said that he has never fought before. Commissioner Thompson said he would be okay allowing him to fight amateur, if all the advanced medicals are submitted. He makes a motion to approve him for a license, pending all advance medicals are submitted to the commission. Commissioner Kiker seconds, and the Commissioner votes 4-0.

Motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman Ector makes the motion, Commissioner Kiker seconds and the commission voted 4-0 to adjourn.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.